

August 31st, 1917.

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,  
East Northfield,  
Mass.

Dear Dr. Dixon:-

The following lettergram addressed to you was received  
this morning -

"Building begins today; completed September  
"thirty; wire Fifteen Hundred to Fairbanks  
"First National for me and deposit balance  
"there by mail; particulars asked for will  
"reach you soon by mail; all well; outlook  
"bright; winter near; glad we came; greeting  
"to all the friends.

Robert J. Diven."

In response, I have this day instructed the Merchants  
National Bank to forward by wire the sum of \$1500. to the First National  
Bank of Fairbanks to the credit of Rev. Robert J. Diven.

I am hesitating about remitting by mail the balance which  
I assume covers the sum of \$2,000. as the estimate for the completed  
building, without furnishings, requires the sum of \$3,500.

They are moving pretty fast at Nenana, and necessarily  
so, but what embarrasses me at the present time is that we are called  
upon to furnish in advance the amount which we expect Dr. Young to raise,  
and also the expected grant from the Board of the Church Erection Fund.  
This latter we will not be able to obtain for the next two months, as we  
must await letters from Nenana giving the required data, before we can  
make up an application which will be acceptable to the Church Erection Board.

I will, however, promptly forward the remaining \$2,000.  
by mail to Fairbanks as requested in Mr. Diven's lettergram, if you approve,  
and request it.

Do not take the trouble to write a letter, unless you prefer  
to do so, but simply attach your o. k. to this note and return it to me  
in enclosed self-addressed envelope.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Treasurer.

B/H



September 7, 1917.

Rev. Robert J. Diven, D.D.

Nenana, Alaska.

My dear Diven,

The office force has been scattered to the four winds lately. I finished my month's vacation and returned to the office last Thursday, the fourth. Dr. Dixon is away for two weeks to come, spending his vacation at Northfield. I am however, in communication with him constantly. Mr. Banks was away for his vacation during the month of August. I was absent from the office yesterday, and on my return he at once brought to my attention the Nenana telegrams and correspondence. He had had to assume the responsibility for sending the \$1500. which he wired to you, and for depositing the other \$2000. in the bank at Fairbanks. Of course I endorsed the transaction, as I have agreed to stand back of the Nenana expenses and raise them if possible as a special fund. But I am in a good deal of perplexity as to how much of this \$3500. I am expected to furnish.

Dr. Condit's telegram stated the combined building, church and manse, would cost \$3500. He stated also, that a canvass would be made at Nenana, and all the funds possible to be raised there would be secured. The later telegram seemed to assume that the whole \$3500 would be expected from the two Boards. Will you please straighten the matter out for us, and send us a copy of your subscription list stating the whole amount raised on the field? The \$2000. deposited in the bank at Fairbanks to your credit will be security to the builders, that the money will be promptly paid on the completion of the building, and if you are not able to raise that much at Nenana, you can draw on the bank account for the balance beyond what you get there.

I have already started a special fund which I shall call the "Nenana Fund", and it will provide the payment of your salary and all these other expenses. Mr. Banks has written you the business details, and we are awaiting your letters with very great interest.

I wish to congratulate you heartily on this vigorous start you have made at Nenana, and hope you will be comfortable and happy before winter sets in. Dr. Marquis has accepted the position of General Secretary to the Board and will assume his duties October 1st. He will be here on September 20th, however, and all the officers of the Board will meet in conference and thresh out the reorganization and all matters pertaining to all parts of the home mission field. Dr. Marquis wishes Dr. Dixon, Mr. McAfee and Fullerton to remain in connection with the Board for the present, at least, until he learns the business. He has expressed himself as decidedly in favor of my taking full charge of the Alaska correspondence, and becoming the Secretary for Alaska, and I believe that this change will be made.

Last Sunday I supplied the Shadyside Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh. This is the church which gave me more money for the \$10,000 fund of a year or two ago, than any other church. There were comparatively few out at the meeting which I addressed, most of the people (especially the moneyed ones) being absent on their summer's vacation. But I made a start - just how big the beginning I do not know, as the checks have not yet come in.

We are about to make a united campaign - all the officers of the Board and many of the workers of the field being enlisted to canvass for funds. We are



going to have a tremendous task, and the funds to the Foreign Mission and Home Mission Boards have fallen off frightfully during the campaign for the Red Cross funds and the Liberty Bonds. It is going to be a strenuous battle, but we hope to win out. However, it does not seem probable that the full deficit of the Board will be made up by next spring.

I have let McBride go to the next General Assembly in my place, on condition that I be in line for 1919. We propose to have McBride come early so as to put in three months of good work in our campaign before the meeting of the Assembly. Those from other fields will also be enlisted. I have fallen down in several efforts to get those who contributed to the \$10,000 fund to renew their subscriptions in the same amount for the new fund. In each case the plea has been "Red Cross," "Belgium Relief" etc. However, I am sincerely glad that we were able to give you at once the help you needed, and that however we may have to cut in other quarters, Nenana's progress is assured, and you will not be burdened by debts.

My heart goes out to you with a feeling that is more of envy than sympathy. I congratulate you on your high privilege; you have a "key" position, and I am thankful we have you, just you, to fill it.

I am in hopes that this letter will reach you before the steamboats stop running, and the usual hiatus of the fall begins between the formation of the ice, and its sufficient hardening to admit of winter trails.

I feel greatly refreshed by my summer's rest. I was in a nervous condition that made literary work very hard, and therefore have not made the progress that I hoped to make with my new book. However, I am doing something at it, and hope it will be my best book. It will not be out before next spring at the earliest.

I presume Dr. Condit is already steaming down the Yukon River, and soon will be on Behring Sea and the Pacific on his way around the coast. Dr. Marquis wishes me to make a tour with him next summer, but I hardly think that will be possible. I do not think that he and I can be away from the Alaska office at the same time. I have certain plans for Alaska which will require my continued presence here, I think.

With warm regards to your family and to any of my friends whom you may meet at Nenana, I am

Most cordially your friend,



Copy

September 11, 1917.

Rev. Robert J. Diven, D.D.

Nenana, Alaska.

My dear Diven,

After I had dictated the enclosed letter, and before it was ready to mail, your telegram of September 5th to Drs. Dixon and Young arrived. I at once consulted with Mr. Banks, the assistant treasurer, and also enclosed your telegram in a letter to Dr. Dixon. That was last Friday, and it is now Tuesday. I sent my letter to Dr. Dixon at Hotel Brunswick, Boston, whither he was going from Northfield. I have just now received Dr. Dixon's answer.

Dr. Dixon, in this letter says-

"I think the point you raise an important one, that the Nenana people should raise all they can. Also it is important that the Board should know definitely what the church and manse will actually cost."

He suggests the substance of the night message which, with Mr. Banks assistance I am cabling you today.

Understand we are in full sympathy with your plans, and mean that you shall have your church and comfortably housed for the winter. But we must know just how much of this \$5500 the Board will ultimately have to stand. It is very important for me, personally, to know this, as I cannot go before the churches for the sum needed to be raised without knowing exactly what it is. The sudden jump from \$3500 to \$5500 is rather disconcerting, especially as we are left in doubt as to whether it must all ultimately fall on us.

We are in some doubt here as to whether the Board of Church Erection will grant you the half of so large a sum, and the whole subscription list with full descriptions, distance from other buildings, etc required in their blanks in order that their sum granted may be fully covered by insurance, must be here in the office before we can secure anything from the Board of Church Erection.

However, we do not mean to hold you up or delay the buildings, and if I have to raise the whole of this larger sum, I shall go at it with all enthusiasm and vigor. But the people from whom I get the most must know that your people are doing all they possibly can. It seems to me that the Government officials engaged in building the railroad, as well as the gold and coalminers and merchants in and about Nenana, ought to do something substantial, especially as it is likely you will have to do for these railroad men a Y.M.C.A. work in addition to your regular church work.

I saw Mr. Kenyon, the Y.M.C.A. man of Anchorage, on his recent visit east, and he seemed doubtful whether there would be any Y.M.C.A. started at Nenana. At least it will not be done before spring. You will understand the importance we attach to Nenana, and to your work there by these extraordinary measures we are taking to help you, and I hope your people appreciate the need of their activity as well.

By the way, do you wish me to make a special appeal for magazines and other periodicals for your reading room? I am afraid it is too late to send in



and third class matter to Nenana this winter, but regular subscriptions to magazines ought to be effective all winter and keep your reading room well supplied.

We will await your letters with great interest.

Yours most cordially,



26.  
September 13th, 1917.

Rev. Robert J. Diven, D.D.,

Nenana, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Diven:-

On August 23rd last the following telegram addressed to our Dr. Dixon was placed in my hands -

"No available place church services for winter  
"building lot purchased today local subscription just proceed  
"immediately with building plan church auditorium and living  
"quarters under same roof requiring thirty-five hundred dollars  
"to construct without furnishing. Do you authorize process on  
"basis such appropriation available. Kindly wire me Nenana.

James H. Condit."

In view of Dr. Dixon's absence and having neither information nor data on the matter, it was necessary for me to communicate with Dr. Dixon at his summer retreat before response could be made. Dr. Dixon suggested that I advise with the Board of Church Erection as to whether they would probably pay one-half the cost of a church and manse building at Nenana, and if so, then to telegraph Dr. Condit to go ahead. I promptly saw Mr. Brauer, Treasurer of the Board of Church Erection - the only officer on duty on that date - and of course, could not obtain from him any definite promise which he was unable to make in behalf of the Board, but he stated that he saw no reason why the Board of Church Erection would not give sympathetic consideration to an application for a grant of one-half of the cost of the combined church and manse building on the basis of \$3500. I then wired to Dr. Condit as follows - in Dr. Dixon's name -

"Combined building authorized not to exceed  
"thirty-five hundred dollars. As we expect Board Church  
"Erection to furnish half, will need description of property  
"purchased in name of Board Home Missions. Need full data as  
"to total cost, all of which can be sent by mail."

On August 31st your telegram addressed to Dr. Dixon was received, in which you requested that \$1500. be wired to the First National Bank - <sup>Fairbanks</sup> your name - and the balance of \$3500. to be deposited by mail, and agreeably therewith our bank - the Merchants National of this city - at our request, wired \$1500. to the First National Bank of Fairbanks, and on September 6th, I forwarded to the First National Bank of Fairbanks an additional check for \$2,000., making up the full \$3500. required. Being unable to consult with Dr. Dixon, I was considerably in the dark as to whether this \$3500. would be the total cost to the Board, exclusive of any sum that might be raised in Nenana, or if the amount represented the gross cost, less such sums as could be secured through subscriptions towards the building. I felt that you were at a far away point, that your



hands had to be held up promptly and effectively, and while the Board has made no grant or provision for the cost of erecting the Nenans Church and Manse building, I took upon myself the responsibility of forwarding the above sums, upon the understanding that Dr. Young would as early this fall as possible, raise at least the one-half cost of the building, and that we would be able to obtain from the Board of Church Erection the remaining one-half in due time.

You can therefore imagine our surprise and consternation when we received your telegram of the 5th instant, which reached here on the morning of the 7th instant, in which you advised that Dr. Condit's original estimate was considerably below the required sum, and that an additional \$2,000., or a total of \$5,500. would be required to erect the combined structure. Our Dr. Dixon was at once communicated with a second time, and the result of his reply was the sending to you of a telegram under his signature, dated September 11th, reading as follows -

"Get definite bid for combined church and manse  
"then report to Board. Also after thorough canvass wire  
"largest possible amount Nenans can raise. Must know amount  
"required of the Board as unusually difficult to provide money.  
"Letter follows."

In these strenuous times when there are so many demands from the people in the States for funds with which to provide for the various items of war expenditures, I am inclined to think that Dr. Young will have a pretty hard time in raising additional funds, beyond the amounts which the churches ordinarily give regularly towards the work of the Board, in order to provide for the cost of the building, even on the basis of \$3500; this additional \$2000. that would seem to be necessary to put up the proposed building somewhat staggers us. The cost of the building has assumed such proportions that we will have to have the matter brought before the next meeting of the Board to be held on the 27th instant, to secure definite action and authority as to how far you are authorized to go in the matter of building operations. It would have helped us very much had you been able to give us an inkling of how much money could be expected from subscriptions obtained in Nenans, but probably your hands were too full as it was in caring for the work that opened up before you. We are therefore awaiting with much interest your response to the question asked in our nightletter to you of the 11th instant.

I took up the matter of this correspondence with the Chairman of our Finance Committee - to which committee the Treasurer of the Board is directly responsible - and was instructed to remit no further amount, until the Board itself could consider the situation and take such action as it saw fit in arranging for your comfort and for proper church facilities.

The reason why the Treasurer is so much embarrassed is due to the fact that no provision has been made in the budget for the year 1917--8 for this Nenans <sup>building</sup> work, and therefore, the Board must either increase its budget or must depend upon the result of Dr. Young's efforts to raise the required amount as an outside special.

In making payments for amounts that become due on the building, I think it would be advisable to pay only such sums as are urgently needed by those to whom the money is due, and to postpone making payments where the amount can



conveniently be held in abeyance; in this way the money already forwarded will doubtless answer all imperative needs.

I appreciate only too well the uncertainty in which you are placed, due to circumstances beyond your control by the receipt of last telegram sent. On the other hand, the undersigned is likewise placed in an embarrassing situation, as only such amounts as have been duly authorized can be paid from the funds of the Board. I am hoping, however, that at our next meeting such definite action will be taken as to put the building project in a position where it can be properly and promptly handled, so as to relieve you from further uncertainty and embarrassment in making your plans.

The Board has increased its budget this year, notwithstanding the war times, and is about to institute a campaign to raise the sum of \$1,500,000., with which to provide for the indebtedness of \$151,000. with which we closed our books on March 31st, 1917, for the necessary funds with which to carry out long contemplated building operations, and for the increased amount necessary to liquidate the operations of the Board as planned for the current year. The last General Assembly enthusiastically adopted the plan of the Board and strongly recommended to the churches that increased contributions be made, in order to provide the Board with the increased amount necessary to meet the projected expenditures. Of course, while the enthusiasm of the General Assembly will to some extent ooze out during the succeeding months, yet the Board has a strong leverage with the churches in quoting the action of the General Assembly, and through the campaign which will be put into operation this fall and winter, we hope to realize pretty close to the amount required.

I am giving you the foregoing facts that you may have an inkling of the situation here, and at the same time realize that we will do all in our power to back you up in the work which you have undertaken. We know your zeal and consecration to the work so near to your heart, and we realize that it is our privilege and duty to stand with, and by you, in this new venture.

I hope that this letter will be able to get through, so as to reach you before the close of navigation.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Treasurer.

B/H

*almost*  
I had *almost* overlooked the fact that you will doubtless need definite information as to what facts and data would be required by the Board of the Church Erection Fund in considering an application which we desire to make for a grant covering the one-half cost of the combined building. This information is readily given by referring to the enclosed blank forms which I am sending you in duplicate, showing what the above Board will ask for. I would suggest that you make out a form of application and the "Diagram of Lot Conveyed" in duplicate and to send them separately by different mails, so that in case one is lost, the other will probably reach us.

We will at this office fill out that portion of the application form immediately preceding the "Questions." Such questions as do not apply to your



case, do not attempt to answer, but furnish us with as much of the facts asked for as can be given.

It is important to have a carefully drawn "Diagram of Lot Conveyed" especially if it is one of many lots in a certain locality which can be definitely described. We will also need a definite description of the lot as contained in the deed of conveyance, so that when the mortgage which the Board will ultimately deliver to the Board of the Church Erection Fund, is executed, it will agree with the deed. I assume of course, that the purchase of the plot has been made in the name of this Board, our corporate title being the same as displayed at the head of this letter. I make this latter point at this time for the specific purpose of having the title properly made. At times our missionaries have designated the Board as the "Presbyterian Board of Home Missions", which of course, is only a nominal name given for the purpose of brevity, but you will of course appreciate the necessity for using our proper corporate title and doubtless you have provided for this in obtaining the title deed. If, as I assume, such deed is drawn up in proper form and contains the proper corporate title of the Board, then it would be in order to send it to the proper office for purpose of having it recorded, before sending it to this office.

Since dictating the foregoing, your telegram of the 12th instant reporting the result of the canvass has been received. Dr. Dixon's present whereabouts are unknown, but he is to return to the office next Tuesday, the 18th instant, at which time the question as to what can be done in providing the remaining \$5,000. will be promptly taken up. It may be that we will be unable to send definite word until after our meeting to be held on Thursday the 27th instant, after which date - if not before - Dr. Dixon will undoubtedly write you fully.



In re Nenana Church Building  
Alaska.

September 28th, 1917.

Rev. Robert J. Diven, D.D.,  
Nenana, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Diven:-

Your last telegram addressed to Drs. Dixon and Young dated the 24th instant was promptly received here. This telegram read as follows -

"Much building now under way making lumber  
"alarmingly scarce are we to build and what shall it be  
"everything waiting for your instructions we must build  
"within month or not this winter we must engage rooms  
"immediately if we are to rent everything fill when road  
"crews come in."

In view of the fact that in order to send a definite authoritative reply to your wire, we must have the backing and consent of our Finance Committee to advance the increased sum required with which to erect the combined building, and as the Finance Committee had already been called to meet Wednesday afternoon the 26th instant, it was impossible to send you a telegraphic reply until after that meeting. Immediately after the adjournment of the meeting about 5:45 p. m. I sent you a wire as follows -

"Rev. Robert J. Diven,  
"Nenana, Alaska.

"September 26, 1917.

"Impossible to reply your wire before today.  
"Authority now given to erect combined building, providing  
"quarters for self and family. Cost to Board not to exceed  
"five thousand. We depend upon Nenana to furnish largest  
"possible amount. Fifteen Hundred wired First National Bank,  
"Fairbanks. Thirty five hundred sent by mail.

"John Dixon."

In this instance as previously, I used Dr. Dixon's name, not only that it would carry to you an authoritative reply, but for the reason that it might have caused you some uncertainty had I used my own name with which you are not familiar, although I may say in passing I have been connected with this Board for almost thirty-five years.

Our Finance Committee agreed to guarantee the \$5,000. required, in addition to the amount raised by the Nenana people, upon condition that Dr. S. Hall Young would raise the balance needed to make up this sum, after receiving the expected grant from the Board of Church Erection and upon Dr. Young's assurance that he would bend his endeavors immediately towards reaching this



desired result, authority was granted for the forwarding of the above response.

The Committee expressed the hope that in the near future the people would undertake to add as much as possible to the amount which they have already guaranteed, so as to assist the Board in providing for that portion of the remaining \$5,000. which is expected through the efforts of Dr. Young, especially if the latter's expectations are not fully realized.

As soon as we hear from you by mail with the expected data asked for, which we will need to furnish to the Board of Church Election, we will proceed to make the required application for a grant from that Board, so as to reimburse the Board in part for the advances already made.

The \$1500. mentioned in our last telegram as having been wired to the First National Bank was dispatched as you have been previously advised, on August 31st. The \$2,000. was forwarded by mail to that bank on September 6th, and the remaining \$1500. mentioned in the telegram as having been sent by mail, will go forward today or tomorrow.

Dr. Young made the point that with the knowledge in hand that the required balance had been forwarded by mail to the First National Bank of Fairbanks, you would be enabled to secure proper credit based upon such advice. We desire to avoid the extra expense of wiring any further sum, if this does not embarrass you, and Dr. Young thought that there would be no difficulty on this score.

I sincerely trust that our wire to you of the 26th instant reached you in time to enable plans already underway awaiting our approval, to be readily carried out.

I may say that the Committee felt it would be preferable to provide comfortable living quarters such as you would obtain in the combined building, rather than to subject you to accepting living quarters that might not be convenient or acceptable to your good wife, and in addition, there was the uncertainty that you might be called upon, through unforeseen circumstances, to give up any building you might temporarily engage. We are therefore hoping that in a short time you will be comfortably housed, so as to be relieved from any solicitation for the comfort of your family on that score.

It will interest you to learn - if you have not already been advised - that <sup>formerly</sup> the Board has elected Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D., Moderator of the General of 1916, as General Secretary of the Board, and he has accepted the election. Dr. Marquis while he begins his official connection with the Board on October 1st, 1917, has been with us for the past ten days in conferences, preliminary to reorganization of the official and clerical staff of the Board.

Sincerely yours,



NOV 1 - 1917 (By registered mail)

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1917

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Nenana, Alaska, Oct. 13, 1917.

Dear Doctor Dixon:-

When our U.S. Commissioner returned he informed me that he had the deed, that he had not been able to file it at the time Doctor Condit was here, because he had not yet received his books for official work. All has been attended to, the proper dates and all being inserted. I am registering this for safety. I am sorry I had not a draftsman's instruments, and a draftsman's skill, when drawing the inclosed sketch, but it will convey the desired information.

We had rain last night, but the weather has brightened to-day. Our building is safe from storm now, and how happy we all are. The Lord seems to have ordered weather just for the belated builders of Nenana. The school building is not yet roofed, but a few more days will see it safe. The Catholic church is not much ahead of ours, though they had over ten fine days start of us. We had a much better head carpenter - and some simple-minded souls have even hinted that the Presbyterian minister is "some hustler as a boss." I am getting good service out of some men whom other "bosses" in town could not get along with. Whether it is dogs or whether it is men, I find that one must study his subject and handle accordingly. There has not been a hitch of any sort, excepting a Frenchman who walked off one morning, after an hour's work, because he saw another workman doing something he had aspired to do - and was not fitted to do. He thought we would offer a raise to get him to come back, but instead we gave him his dollar and a quarter for his hour and let him go, without asking him to stay. Men are very scarce now. Twice the present number now working in Nenana could be used from now till the freeze-up - which may come any day.

Excuse haste. I have stolen this time to get this into the next outside mail. I must get back to the building.

A copy of our subscription list as well as detailed expenditures will be forwarded at the earliest possible date, shortly after October 31st.

How I wish I could do more to help you men raise the funds you need for the great work in our country! I surely do not envy you. I know it is rough sometimes on the firing line, but I enjoy most of it and take the other of it as a challenge. How happy we will be when we can get our things unpacked and be at home again! But we will be, if all goes well, by the time this reaches you. I think I must see if I can't find some old friend who will bequeath me his latest and best Victrola, and then obligingly die suddenly so I may have it, to use in visiting with men evenings in our home. That living room will see many a fellow this winter. There will be quite a large number spend the winter here. The pool halls get most of them, but, one by one we will get acquainted and find opportunity to be of service.

Faternally,

Robert Joseph Dixon.



THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS  
OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Steubenville, Ohio, Dec. 14, 1917.

Mr. Varian Banks,

156 Fifth Ave., New York.

My dear Mr. Banks,-

Yours of Dec. 8th reached me after much delay on account of the blockaded roads.

I note what you say about giving all my thought and attention to the raising of the Nenana fund; I am doing so and have been pursuing that policy right along and my only pleas in public have been for that fund. I enclose one of the subscription cards which I use in all my meetings.

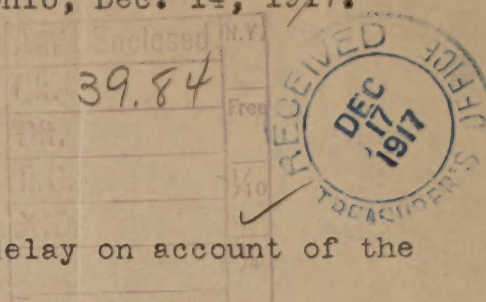
But I often meet persons of wealth who will give little or nothing to the general fund of the Board or to a general appeal like mind, but who can be reached if there is a special big thing for them to do which they can control and give their names to.

Dr. Hudnut thinks there are two men in Youngstown of that class, both of whom ~~are~~ multi-millionaires and fond of doing things their own way, and who have not much interest in missions unless these are made to appeal to them as being very practical. He thinks I might possibly get the money needed for the Kake boat from one or both of these men; they having the privilege of naming the boat, etc. I expect to go for them when I go back to Youngstown, Jan. 15th. You need not fear my halting my efforts to raise the Nenana fund.

I am enclosing another check from Mr. Reinhold of \$39.84. The items are as follows:

First Church of Youngstown,	\$17.00
Niles Church,	17.00
Warren Church,	5.84

Total, \$39.84



49590



THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS  
OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

-2-

All from Mahoning Presbytery. A number of the best churches of that presbytery have not yet sent in the amounts raised. Among these are upwards of \$90.00 from Canton and some \$50.00 for East Palestine; \$25.00 in pledge cards have been sent me by Dr. Hudnut and I am writing to the parties. The big money from Youngstown will not come until after my return visit there.

Steubenville Presbytery has so far been "a frost" on account of the awful weather, but I shall follow up the campaign.

I expect to reach the office next Wednesday, after having completed my itinerary in Steubenville Presbytery.

Very sincerely,

*Chas*

*S. Wall Young*

49590



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Nenana, Alaska, October 19, 1920.

Mr. Varian Banks,  
 156 Fifth Avenue  
 New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Banks:-

My insurance in The New York Life  
 Company will again be calling for premiums in December -- Dec. 28, 1920.  
 I am writing early, so that you can use the December check in paying the  
 premiums instead of having to advance my January salary in order to  
 make my insurance safe. This note should reach you some days before  
 time to mail my December check.

We are still struggling with the Government's Engineering Commission,  
 in an endeavor to get a final and satisfactory settlement, or adjustment,  
 rather, of the much-mooted flu bills. We have hopes of at last getting  
 a just settlement for the community, but we will be sure of nothing till  
 all is settled and the books closed. If we get satisfaction for the town,  
 my church will be able to make a better showing financially than at  
 present is possible. We will do our best as the days bring new opportu-  
 nities. I hope all the Board folks are well and happy in their work.

My church paid its full quota to the benevolence budget for 1920,  
 just after the opening of the church year. We received our receipt, but  
 a dun for benevolences for 1920 recently came to my hand, and I am wondering  
 if the good brethren who send out such things have overlooked the facts.  
 It was a fortunate thing that we did thus pay our benevolence apportionment,  
 for the flu came soon afterward and there would have been no benevolences  
 from this quarter if it had been left to the usual time. Our benevolences  
 were the first money paid out of the church funds at the beginning of the  
 new church year.

Very cordially,

Robert Joseph Diven



November 17th, 1920.

Rev. Robert J. Diven, D.D.,  
Nenana, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Diven:

Your letter of the 19th ult. reached here on the 15th inst. concerning your insurance. Today we received from the New York Life Insurance Company the premium notice accompanied by a cash dividend notice of \$6.44 on each of your five policies or a total cash dividend of \$32.20. The premium of \$35.84 due on each policy aggregates \$179.20. This makes the net payment due \$147. I called up the insurance company and ascertained that they would accept the signing of the dividend receipts in your name by myself and I will arrange to see that these receipts are furnished together with the payment of the last named amount which we will charge against your December salary.

Regarding the dun which you received covering an expected contribution from your church, I could very readily have this misunderstanding remedied if I knew from whom you received such a communication. I presume it was some one connected with the New Era Movement. These duns are sometimes prepared to be sent out and then are mailed after the receipt of offerings, which procedure if followed is faulty as no statement should be made regarding the supposed delinquency of a church regarding its benevolences until the facts are definitely ascertained. If you wish me to have this straightened out for you, send me the communication you received calling attention to the supposed failure of your church to contribute or give me such data as will permit of getting in touch with the proper department and I will see that the misunderstanding is remedied. You might send me too, if you decide to ask my help, the number of the receipt which you received.

I sincerely hope that the government's engineering commission will settle the flue bills which you referred to in an equable and satisfactory manner.

The Board's official staff is in excellent health and looking forward to a strenuous financial campaign in the next few months. We will require a largely increased income from living sources this year if we hope to avoid increasing our debt of last year.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG

Assistant Treasurer